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Il Namo Arihantanam II

I I SHWAR Vandana

-: Divine grace - commands - blessings :-

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On the occasion of

First Death Anniversay

OF HIS HOLINESS

Justice Shree Ishwarbhai G. Shah

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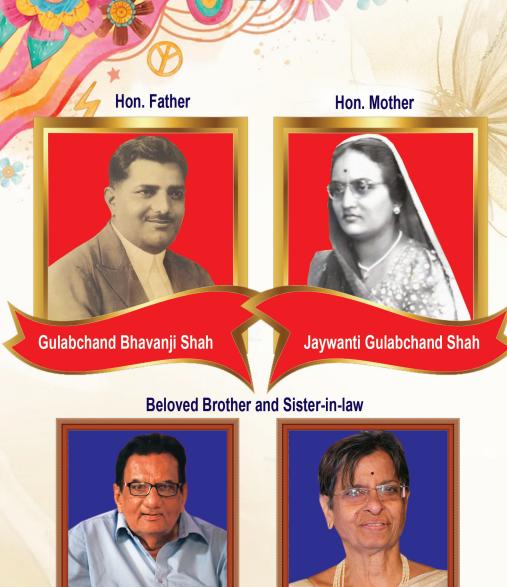
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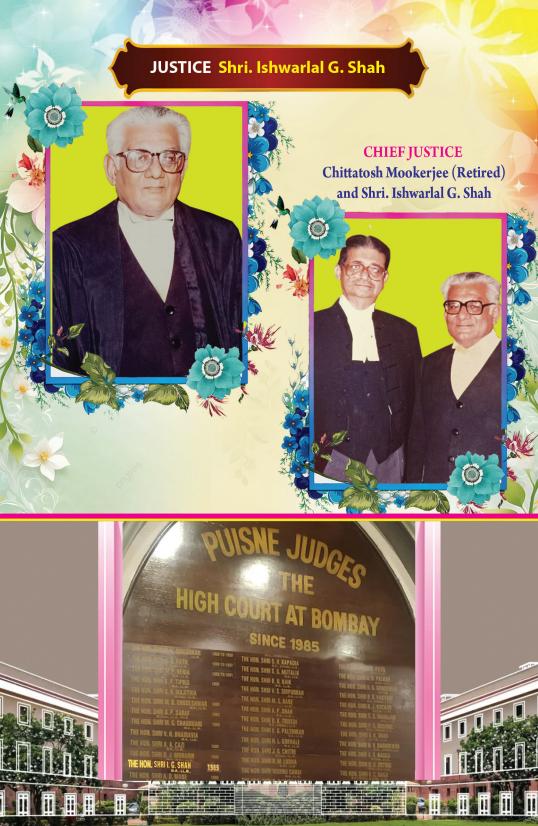




Chandrakant Gulabchand Shah



Kantaben Chandrakant Shah



In Memoriam Justice. I. G. Shah

With heavy hearts, we bid farewell to Justice I G Shah, a distinguished figure whose life was marked by Service, Dedication, and an unwavering commitment to Justice.

Born in Mumbai on September 19, 1932, into the esteemed Kutchi Dasa Oswal Jain Family, Justice Shah's journey was one the markable achievements and noble Endeavors. Educated at J R City School in Marathi Medium, he pursued his passion for learning, graduating with distinction from Wilson College in Science and later obtaining his Law degree from ILS LAW College Pune. Justice Shah's early years were characterized by his active participation in sports, especially alongside his family's deep-rooted involvement in Politics and Social Work.

His father, Gulabchand Bhavanji, and mother Jayvanthi G Shah exemplified Civic responsibility, serving as Municipal President's, a legacy continued by himself also by becoming the President of the Dhulia Municipal Council, he was youngest mayor of Dhulia Municipality his brother also a municipal Councilor and himself. Embarking on a legal career, Justice Shah's Prowess in law quickly earned him recognition.

He ascended to the position of District Pleader in 1954, subsequently becoming an Advocate of the Bombay High Court in 1958. His expertise spanned various legal domains, including Criminal, Civil, Accident Claims, and Election Petitions. In 1975, he was Appointed as Direct District & D

Beyond his professional achievements, Justice Shah was a man of deep spirituality and family values. He rejoiced in the blessings of his Great-Grandson, Dhruv.

His leisure pursuits included Bridge, Lawn Tennis, and an avid appreciation for cricket, with Sachin Tendulkar as his favorite. Justice Shah's legacy extends beyond the courtroom.

Instrumental in founding the Rotary Club of Dhulia, he rose to the esteemed position of District Governor of Rotary International District 305, he was youngest Governor in Rotary encompassing Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Dhulia part of Maharashtra. His contributions to educational and community initiatives, coupled with his global travels, earned him the esteemed Kutch Ratna.

On May 2, 2023, a full Court reference held in the Bombay High Court honored Justice I G Shah's distinguished service to the legal profession, marking the end of an era and the celebration of a life well-lived. As we bid farewell to a Luminary May his legacy continue to inspire generations to come..

From the Author's Desk

Smt. Vandanaben Shah came during Parola Chaturmas. She expressed her desire to publish a book of stories in the fond memory of late Shri Ishwarbhai Shah. She requested to write in english and also if connected with the Tirthankar parmatma one gets religious knowledge.

Stories are a medium that child, youth, adult everyone loves to read and listen. Through them one gets enlighted and that brings a change in the life of the reader. In the loving memory of Ishwarbhai intresting, knowledgeble and enlightening stories are included in this book.

Contribution of Smt. Neelamben momaya and Smt. Chandrikaben Lodaya is worth mentioning in completing this book.

By reading these stories **know Ishwar**...**enjoy Ishwar**... **follow Ishwar**...become the master of good cultured life... **finally be Ishwar**.

In the end may the salutary spirit of Vandanaben succeed, may the wish be fulfilled.



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THE INITIATIAL WORSHIP OF TIRTHANKARS

The first king of the first era was Rishabhdev.

Once he was sitting in his palace.

The celestial being or the lokantik dev came and humbly requested him with folded hands..

"Oh wealthy one! Oh benevolent soul! May you emerge victorious in your task for universal welfare.. Please establish a centre for Dharma Tirtha.."

Rushabhdev understood the implication and started handing down his responsibilities.. He distributed his kingdom to his son's

He handed the main region of Vinita Nagari to his son Bharat....

The kingdom of Takshashila in Bahali region was handed over to Bahubali .

He distributed different regions to the rest of his 98 sons.

He renounced all material and emotional attachments, left his palace and accepted the life of monkhood..

Nami and Vinami were the grandsons of the king... While the distribution of the kingdom was going on, they were out of the town.

After returning back, they went to Prabhu and claimed their rights of land...

Prabhu had renounced everything, so he remained

silent, and was engrossed in his meditation...and kayotsarga pose...

Realizing that their Grandfather had adopted monkhood, they dug a pit, filled it with water and placed a lotus in it. They then offered heaps of flowers at the feet of the good Lord. They started this form of worship everyday..

Once Dharanendra Dev came to offer salutations to Prabhu..

He was glad to see Nami and Vinami there and was impressed with their devotion.....

When he saw these two demanding kingdom from the Prabhu, he told them, "Don't demand from Prabhu.. I will give you your kingdom"..

So saying he gave 48000 types of Vidhyas or various knowledge..and gave four Maha Vidyas namely Gauri, Gandhari, Rohini and Pragnapati ,with accomplished lessons. He told them, "With the gift of these Vidyas, you wil be accomplished scholars..or Vidyadhars.

Take your family members and go to Vaitadhya mountain.

"Establish your kingdoms in North and South directions there..."

This was the first miraculous fruit of the devotional worship of the Tirthankaras..



Never miss the chance of worshiping Tirthankar



DHARMACHAKRA TIRTH

Once upon a time...

In the Takshashila region of Bahali kingdom...

Lord Adinath happened to visit the place in the midst of his vihaar....

He came to a park in the city and immersed himself in deep rooted meditation or Kausagh..

The care taker of the park passed on the message of His arrival to His son Bahubali..

The very news of the arrival of the good Lord filled Bahubali with immense happiness...

He decided to visit his father in the morning with great pomp and show.

He spent the night with elated feelingsfeelings of displaying his worldly possessions...

As decided, he went to greet the good Lord along with his family,

Royalties, his subjects and his army..

But Alas..his wish of saluting the Lord was incomplete..

When he reached the park he realised that Adiprabhu had completed his meditation and left the town...

Bahubali repented for having procrastinated his visit..He was very sad for having lost the chance of the darshan...He tried to move towards the direction of the footsteps of Prabhu on a speeding elephant..

But he could not get a glimpse or any trace of his father. After a while he could see a radiance..an aura of Adinath...

He stood there and saluted His holiness and shouted out the name of Prabhu five times.. It was from this time that the concept and system of baang or calling out the holy name at times of worship, together the devotees started.

The place where the Lord Adinath stood in meditation whole night Bahubali built a Platform and he established Lord Adinath's foot steps (Charan Paduka). This holy place become famous as **Dharma Chakra Tirth.**

Bolo Bolo Adinath Prabhu ki Jai..



MORAL

It is always advisable not to procrastinate things.

BHARAT AND BAHUBALI

Lord Aadinath was more popularly known as Rushabhdev.

He had 100 sons and 2 daughters..

Before renouncing the world, he had completed the distribution of his entire Kingdom amongst all his children .

The kingdom of Ayodhya or the Vinita Nagari was given to Bharat..

He gave the kingdom of Takshashila to Bahubali.. his second son..

The rest of Adinath Kingdom was distributed among his 98 sons..

Bharat and Bahubali established their kingdoms with perfection. Both of them where competent and clever. They were very ambitious too..

Bharat maharaja now wanted to expand his kingdom and earn more wealth and lands.

With this intention in mind, he started strengthening his army and making new and varied weapons...

Having equipped himself, Bharat maharaja started his journey of conquests..The Vijay Yatra.

He begot the divine weapon of 14 ratna "The Chakra Ratna" which would help him behead any one who opposes his sovereignty.

With his army and his ability, he succeeded in conquering most of the neighbouring kingdoms.

Now he was filled with a desire to conquer the kingdoms belonging to his 98 brothers..

He send an ambassador to all his 98 brothers asking them to accept his superiority and possession of their kingdoms, without having to wage a war.

The younger brothers were perplexed with this change of events.

They went to discuss this matter with Adinath.

Adinath calmly explained the transitory nature of power, possessions and kingdom.. All these things are very temporary, Aadi Prabhu explained to them and he even advised them against fighting and quarelling for acquiring and maintaining all these mundane things..

He preached, that it would be more beneficial to fight the inner enemies rather than the external ones.. The inner battle would be able to win a permanent kingdom for them in the Sidh Sheela abode.

"Our true battle is the battle with our karmas".. It is the battle of winning over the passions, the attractions, the avertions and all the kashays and vices.. It would be a strong battle in strengthening the soul against the power of all these evil influences...

The external battles might be able to win new kingdoms and new wealth and material positions but they will be temporary again. The present situation is a best example.. Today Bharath wants to win them over your kingdom, there might be another king who would like to

fight and win them from him again. So' it is better to win a battle which will give you permanent gain..

The words of Adinath Prabhu filled the minds of the 98 brothers with remorse and complete detachment towards the mundane world..

The taste of the worldly happiness and worldly positions became bitter and the world of renunciation seemed much sweeter..

All the 98 brothers were now prepared to forsake the whole Kingdom and the whole family and get initiated into the Diksha fold.. The transitory nature of the world now over took all the other emotions.

They surrendered the whole land and their Kingdom to the elder brother Bharat..

They renounced the world took Diksha and became disciples of Lord Adinath..

So all the kingdoms came under the power of Bharath. The only remaining Kingdom was that of Bahubali.

Bahubali was very strong,. And he was reluctant to become a subordinate to his brother. He argued, that the kingdom was given to him by his father, and he would not like to partake with his rights..

He told to himself "My brother's were cowards, I am not like them. I am strong and fearless.. I will not give my kingdom to Bharat."

He therfore rejected the superiority of Bharat and decided to fight against him.

The ground for the war was now ready.

Both the brothers brought their armies face to face in the battlefield..

The whole scenario was very fearful..

Not only the human beings but even the celestial beings, the Devtas, were worried about the result of this war..

There was a feasible reason for their worry... As both the brothers were strong and the army was stronger.. Even the weapons were of large quantities, so there will be more and more of bloodshed on the battlefield. The Devtas wondered how to stop this fearful death and disaster...

They tried their best to convince both the brothers to stop the battle but both were not in a mood to end the fight.

Finally Indra maharaja intervened. He sat between the two brothers and tried to put reason into them.

"The prosperity of the kingdom is big due to the efforts of your father Shri Rushabhdev. Your duty is to increase the prosperity and the peace of the land. You have no right to destroy the kingdom for your personal gain. If you really want to decide who is stronger among both of you just keep the battle between yourself. Both of you fight single handedly, and decide who is stronger instead of killing so many people for no fault of theirs. There is no need of war and the consequent devastating results.."

Both the brothers were satisfied with the solution. Everyone was happy that there would be no casualties

and no blood shed.. The idea of Indra maharaja was appreciated by everyone.

Indra Maharaja now decided on five types of yuddha or war

1) Dhvani yuddha 2)Drusti yuddha 3) Musti yuddha 4) Danda yuddha 5)Bahu yuddha.

In the initial yuddha, Bahubali emerged victorious. He badly defeated his brother Bharat. Bharat was very angry with his brother. Without thinking he lifted the Chakra Ratna on Bahubali. . The Chakra Ratna is a divine weapon or divine wheel which when used never misses it's target. But there is an important rule in the use of this weapon. This Chakra Ratna does not hurt the real blood relations of the person who uses it.

True to this characteristic of the Chakra, it just completed a circle around Bahubali and returned back to Bharat. With the sudden change of events, Bahubali was very enraged with this violent reaction.

His immediate reaction was to smash his elder brother with his mighty fist.

He even lifted his hand to smash his brother .

Suddenly, a beam of knowledge passed through his heart.. He realised the graveness of the act that he was going to do..Reason dawned on him..

" What am I doing?

Have I lost my senses? For what am I quarelling? For the sake of Kingdom?

My father and brothers have forsaken their Kingdom for peace..

And I was going to smash my elder brother for this kingdom? My elder brother who is like a father to me?"...

With this thought he retraced the hand that was going to beat his brother.. he took it back on his own head and did "panch musti lochan".

Or the act of pulling his own hair to accept Diksha..

He renounced the world and gave everything to Bharat.

His first thought was to go to his father and accept initiation of Diksha over there.

Then his ego intervened..

He thought, "If I go to my father now, I will have to follow the ascetic principles... and I will have to bow to my brothers who are younger to me by age but senior by Diksha. I don't want to do this."

Hence he decided, "I will do austere penance and attain absolute knowledge or Keval Gyan and then go to visit my father. When this task is achieved, I will be superior, then as per the custom, my brothers will have to bow down to me and I will not have to bow down to them..."

This act perfectly shows that Bahubali had renounced the world but was unable to renounce the pride and ego in him.

Then Bahubali started the process of attaining kevalgyan.. He was completely immersed in meditation and lost count of time and place...

He was so motionless, that birds and creepers

indentified him with a lifeless tree and creepers started growing and birds started building nests on his body.. He was so lost in meditation that he did not realise any movements other than that of his soul.

The creepers held on to his legs and started growing...

Days passed...months passed...Bahubali was still in meditation..But he was unable to forgo his ego..

His pride and ego proved to be a hindrance to his goal..He was unable to attain Keval Gyan..

A year passed in this state..

Lord Rushabhdev saw this in his Gyan. He sent his daughters, Sadhvi Brahmi and Sundari to make him realise his mistake..

They came to the place where their brother was doing meditation. They could not see their brother because he was completely covered with creepers but sensing that their brother was near, they told him,

"Veera gaj thi Hetha utaro"

Meaning "Oh Brother! Step down from the elephant as no one can attain kevalgyan while being seated on an elephant."

These words reached the ears of Bahubali.

The familiar words sent his thoughts reeling..

This is my sister's voice. They are sadhvis.. They will not lie...

But I am not sitting on an elephant then why are they insisting that I step down from the elephant.?. There

must be some inner meaning in their words.. He sat down to contemplateand then wisdom dawned on him.

They are not wrong. They are right!.

I am sitting on the elephant of pride and unless I step down from that inflated ego and pride I will not be able to achieve my goal. The internal vice of ego is not allowing me to free my soul. He now decided to go to his father to accept Diksha and to offer salutations to his brothers.

That one step did the trick.. all the vices of the soul were freed. He was now completely free from any restrictions of the soul. He attained the all wishful Keval Gyan.

He became the Omniscient and Omnipresent...

What a wonderful tale of wealth and sacrifice,. Of pride and humility., Of the transitory world of the body and the permanent world of the soul.

Hail to the Omniscient Bahubali...





It would be more beneficial to fight the inner enemies rather than the external ones.



VARSHI TAP / FIRST SUPATRA DAAN.

Lord Rushabhdev adopted renunciation..

He became the first ascetic of the era..

He was a strict disciplinarian and a man of abhigrah or strong challenges or vows..

On the very 2nd day of initiation, Prabhu went around begging for alms after the third quarter of the day had passed...

For two consequent days, Prabhu went around to people for gochari or alms to break his two days fast.

In those days people were very devotional and rich but were ignorant about the ways of giving alms to the Jain saints...

They were wondering what to offer a person who had once been a king and had forsaken all his riches...

They started offering all the things that would befit a king...

Hence they started offering him elephants, horses, gold, girls etc. but no one requested or offered him to accept pure and harmless food or water.

As the gochhri time passed away, Prabhu would go back into his meditation again..His fast continued for more and more days.

This happened because Rushabh Prabhu was the first Saint of the era and no one had taken Diksha before him..

The 4000 people who had also taken Diksha along with Prabhu also suffered the same fate.. They could now no longer live without food and water.

So they went to Prabhu and asked them the procedure of taking and accepting food and water for their survival..

But Aadinath Prabhu had taken vow of silence.

Maun...From the time Prabhu had taken Diksha he would remain silent.

The rest of the people who had accepted Diksha now started staying on the banks of the river Ganga and eating the fallen leaves and fruits, along with the roots and flowers. They started this habit of keeping a long hair on their scalp and binding their hair into a 'Jatta' or a knot on their head.

Rishabh Prabhu continued his vihar from village to village without food and water..

Not only months but a complete year passed.. but the fast continued..as he did not get food.

During his vihaar, he then came to the kingdom of Hastinapur..

Bahubali's son Somyash was the king of Hastinapur..

When Prabhu reached Hastinapur an astonishing thing happened..

That night, the king.. Somyash, his son Shreyans and a businessman Subudhi all had a same sort of dream..

When they came together in the assembly they discussed about their dream..

Shreyans Kumar in his dream saw the Meru Parvat looking very dull. He started bathing the Meru mountain with water from the milk Ocean called the "Kshir Samudra" The Meru Parvat started shining brightly.

King Somyash had a dream that a great valiant king is very tired during the war. Prince Shreyans helps him out and with his help the king is able to win over the enemy.

The Nagar seth Subuddhi, observed in his dream, that sun rays have separated from the sun and were falling apart.. At that time Shreyans appeared and he just joined the rays to the sun and now the sun shined again...

The gist of everyone's discussion was that Shreyansh is going to benefit greatly on that particular day...All of them returned to their homes..

In the afternoon Shreyansh Kumar was sitting in the palace and he continuously heard the discussion that "Prabhu does not take anything at all.."

Shreyans came out of the palace to see what was happening. When he saw Aadinath he thought that "I have seen something like this..

I have seen something like this"

Thinking deeply he could recollect all his past lives. He could recognise all the relations of the past births with Prabhu. He now realised that Prabhu was a Tirthankar now.

He could recollect the art of giving alms..

At that moment pots filled with fresh sugarcane juice were gifted by someone to Shreyans Kumar.

He thought that this sugarcane juice is harmless and can be conceived by the good Lord. He therefore requested Prabhu to accept it..

Prabhu accepted the sugarcane juice in his hands folded like a Lotus and broke his year old fast.

The celestial beings showed him with flowers and from that time onwards the procedure of religious charity or supatra daan started.

To commemorize the 400 days of fast of Prabhu. Jains observe the same penance as 'Varshi Tap.' They start this penance from "Fagan vad atham to vaishakh sudh treej". They do fast every alternative day and do two varshi taps to complete 400 fasts..

Jai Jai Shree Aadinath..





Penance is the best weapon to destroy Karma.
Supatra daan is way to accumulate
merits-**Punya**



SHRI SAMBHAVNATH

Dhataki khand..

Airawat kshetra

Kshempur town..

Vimal Vahan king....

Once in his Kingdom during the rainy season as fate would have it, there was absolutely no rain..

Along with the king everyone was worried and everyone tried their best to find remedies for water, but there was no success.

It slowly became a situation of drought as there was no food available..People could not get grains and they started starving.. People started dying without food.

In this demanding situation, the king thought that his real duty would start now.

"Now it is my responsibility to look after my people and specially my Sadharmiks" (People who belong to the same religion and fold).

So he started a kitchen for all. He devotionally served lakhs of Sadharmiks.. and the Sadhu sants.

This feeling of universal compassion, and his sadharmik bhakti, gave rise to his "Tirthankar Nam Karma".

Later he renounced his worldly life and accepted Diksha. He did many penances and was born in the devlok after his death.

He became a celestial God and from there he was born in the womb of Queen Sena.

When the queen conceived him she saw 14 auspicious dreams.

It was a period of drought again and there was a heavy scarcity of rain and grains during the consummation of Prabhu. But when the soul of King Vimal vahan, entered the womb of the queen the situation suddenly changed.. Rain started pouring and the drought period ended... Unexpected grains started coming from all the sides..

All of them were surprised and started wondering as to what happened? How did the situation suddenly change?

On analysing all of them came to know that this was the after effects of the conceiving of the soul of king Vimal Vahan. He had donated in the last birth during the period of drought and in this birth he was to become the Tirthankar and because of his precious Karma the situation suddenly changed Impossibility changed to possibility and there rose a hope in the minds of people and therefore he was named as Sambhavnath..

Everything is possible when Prabhu is around.

Charity...donation is the first step towards religion and it is an important part of religion..

Among all the donations food donation is the best donation..whenever you get a chance do not miss an opportunity of giving donations.





Never miss an opportunity of giving donation as donation is the first step towards religion and helps to accumulate Punya

SHRI SUMATINATH PRABHU

In this Avarspini cycle..

The incident relates to the reign of the fifth Tirthankar Sumtinath Prabhu.

A surprising thing happened when Sumatinath was conceived in the Womb of his mother...

The king was sitting on his throne in his assembly.

Two ladies entered with one child in the assembly..

Both these ladies were wives of one merchant... For some time they lived happily together.. They had no complaints against each other..

Then the second wife gave birth to a son..

All were very happy and the first wife took utmost care of the child, just like as her own son.

But after the demise of the merchant, the whole scenario changed..

The mind of the first wife changed .

She took the child to the king and demanded that she should get the rightful custody of the child.

The other lady insisted that the child was hers and the child should be given back to her. She was looking frightened and she was apprehensive of what would happen... She requested the king to give back her son to her.

The king was in a dilemma. He was confused as to what decision he should take....

He finally called them the next day and told he will take the decision the next day...

Next day the two ladies entered with the child...

The queen declared that the decision would be taken after the newborn comes into this world, till that time the child will stay in the kingdom. The first lady, after hearing this was okay with the decision and told "okay okay."

The queen immediately said that the real mother would never forsake her son even for a moment. This cannot be the real mother at all.

The decision was taken.

The child was handed over to the real mother... that is the second lady.. The real mother was very happy..

The queen felt that right decision could have been taken due to the presence of her child.

The right perception should have been due to him..so they decided to name him Sumati, Which means the right intelligence..

One must pray to Lord Sumatinath for right decisions and correct intellect...With His blessing no one can folly on any situation...

Bolo bolo Sumatinath Ki jai...





It is important to have right knowledge and intellect to be able to take right decisions.

KING MEGHARATH

Lord Shantinath was the 16th Jain Tirthankar..

After attaining samyaktva (Or staunch belief in the sayings of the Tirthankaras...), he took twelve births..

In his tenth birth he was born as King Megharath....

The king was very kind and merciful...

The fame of king Meghrath reached up to the celestial abode.. King Indra once praised the kindness and the merciful nature of King Megharath in the assembly of celestial Gods..

Indra Maharaj, even went to the extent of saying that King Megharath would not hesitate in giving up his own life to protect the lives of birds and animals who are in his shelter..

Two celestial beings doubted this statement of Indra.

They wanted to meet and test the king..

The celestial beings have the power of changing their form as per their wish and they can reach anywhere they want without any hassles..

They chalked out a master plan to check this quality of the king.

One of them took the form of a pigeon and the other assumed the form of a hawk..

King Meghrath was sitting in his assembly and discussing some matter with his ministers...

Suddenly, a frightened pigeon entered the assembly through the window and fell into the lap of King Megharath....

The king was surprised as to what happened. The pigeon was shaking with fear and the king was trying to understand the situation and the predicament of the pigeon..

Within a few minutes the hawk entered the assembly and was searching something.

As soon as he saw the pigeon on the lap of the king, the hawk came near the king and requested, "Oh King! This is my food. Please return it to me. I am really very hungry."

The king heard this and said, "Oh Hawk, what you say is true. The pigeon maybe your prey, but at present it is under my shelter. I cannot return this pigeon to you but I can arrange some other food for you."

The king then ordered the servant to bring other food stuffs like fruits, vegetables and other cooked food...

The hawk disgustedly said, "Idon't eat such food. I am neither human being nor a vegetarian. I am a nonvegetarian bird and I eat food like fish and flesh.. so I would request you to return back my pigeon or give me flesh. This demand of the hawk sent a wave of thoughts in the mind of the king...

In order to give flesh to the hawk he would have to kill another animal. In the act of saving the pigeon it would not be feasible to kill another animal as it would serve no purpose.. He felt it unethical to kill any living being to save another creature..

Finally he sought out a solution..."To give happiness and peace to all living beings I will give my own flesh to the hawk.."

What a marvelous and benevolent thinker he was.. Would we ever be able to take this decision if we had to have this situation in our life?

But King Megharath was much different..

True to his word he asked the servant to bring a weighing scale in the assembly...

The weighing scale was brought and king Megharath put the pigeon in one of the scales of the weighing scale, and his flesh that is equivalent to the weight of the pigeon that you are holding in your hand. To the astonished looks of everyone in the assembly,. The king started cutting the flesh of his thigh and putting it on the weighing scale... But it was not equivalent against the weight of the pigeon. He started putting more and more flesh from his body but still it could not compensate with the weight of the pigeon.. Finally the king himself got up and sat on the other side of the weighing scale.

There was no discomfort nor any annoyance on the face of the king. He was very calm, collected and happy that he could save so many creatures by donating his flesh...

He was happy for being able to save the life of the pigeon.

The king finally closed his eyes and offered the whole body to the hawk and asked the hawk to eat him as his food..

When this alarming situation was seen, and the

king was ready to sacrifice his whole body for the sake of a meagre pigeon, the Hawk and the pigeon disappeared from the scene. They soon assumed the original divine form as celestial Gods. They both bowed down to the king and appreciated the real nature, trait of the king.

"You are really great," they admitted, "You are even more compassionate than what Indra had described... You did not even hesitate to sacrifice your own noble body to save a small living creature. We are really impressed with your compassion and kindness. We salute this humanitarian trait of yours and we would like to ask forgiveness for having come to test you and caused you inconvenience."

The king later on was impressed with the preaching of the Tirthankaras and he renounced the world...Took Diksha...and adorned the penance of Vis-sthanak...He acquired the fame of "Tirthankar naam karma..." and ended his life in auspicious meditation..

He was born as a high level of a celestial being or a Devta and from this devlok he was born as Shri Shantinath Prabhu..the 16th Tirthankar..





Remember: Violence is the path of misery.. Non violence is the path of eternal happiness..

MALLIKUMARI...

Princess of Mithila...

She was the daughter of King Kumbha and Queen Prabhavati. King Kumbha gave her best education through highly respected teachers. In few years Princess Malli became expert in 72 arts. After few years she became extraordinarily beautiful and attractive girl. Princess Mallikumari was famous everywhere for her education beauty and virtues.

King of Hastinapur, Ayodhya, Champa, Kashi, Kampilyapur and Shrivasti also got the news of Malli's beauty. All six kings were so impressed that they all sent marriage proposals to King Kumbha. King Kumbha checked all these proposals but' he did not find any of these proposals suitable for Princess Malli. So' he rejected all. These all six kings were the friends of Princess Malli in her last birth, when she was King Mahabal. All these six friends were reborn as princes of different kingdom. Now all six became very powerful kings. When they came to know that their proposals are rejected; they all were very angry. All six kings decided to attack Mithila...conquer Mithila... finally to achieve Princess Malli.

All six kings combined their army power which was now very strong. Kumbha - King of Mithila faced them with all his strength but it seemed to be very difficult for him and his army to stand for long time. King Kumbha returned to his kingdom and closed the doors of Mithila.

Princess Malli came to know the situation and she also understood that she herself is the cause of present

situation. She told her father not to worry and also said that she only will solve the problem. Princess Malli came to know the details of situation through 'Avadhi Gnyan' accordingly she made a plan.

She was knowing that in her palace there is one hall with six doors Malli arranged well furnished rooms behind each door. Transparent glass were fitted in the hall's door in such a way that one sitting in rooms could see what is there in the hall.

Princess Malli then prepared self statue by well known special artist. Statue was so accurate, lifelike that any one who sees feels as if Princess Malli is standing. The prepared statue was hollow with hole and lid at the top. The statue was so placed in the hall that it could be seen from all six rooms. She also told her servant to put morsel of food twice a day from hole in statue and immediately close the lid tightly.

Princess now told her father to invite all six kings and gave them the six rooms attached to the hall. King Kumbha invited all six kings. All of them came to the palace and occupied their respective rooms. When they observed through the glass in the hall they saw statue of Malli but they thought statue as real Malli. They all were anxious to meet her.

All hall doors were opened all the six kings entered the hall. All were very eager to meet Princess Malli. Malli also entered through tunnel. She was standing behind the statue, slowly she opened the lid on the top of statue, foul odour spread in the hall all kings covered their nose. As told by Malli servant was putting morsel of food twice

a day, that food rotted and emitted a foul odour and the smell was unbearable.

Real Malli presented herslef and she told all kings what I eat the same food my servant puts in this statue. You all love me then why you cannot stand the smell of person whom you all love. We observe only external body we don't see what is inside our body. If we will see internal structure of our body we will get detached. We should not be attracted only by the colour, form and features of body which is impermanent mortal, while the soul which is present in the body prevents the rotting of food etc. This means soul is important and not the body. Then she asked these kings "do you know me?" They all replied yes "we know you as Princess Malli" Then she explained in detail their previous birth.

In second last birth I was king of city Vitshoka of Aparmahavideha. I was very intimate with (you all)six other kings who were my childhood friends. I was influenced by discourses of ascetics. I decided to follow the spiritual path. I asked my six friends' what is your opinion?'

All six friends replied as we all are together in mundan life similarly we all will walk on spiritual path together.

We all seven friends (kings) took diksha and started spiritual practices earnestly. I, Mahabal Muni was bitten by bug of ego. Mahabal Muni thought 'I have always been ahead of my friends. Now if I do same practices I will remain at the same level. So I should do a little more and be ahead as before with this feeling Mahabal started secretly doing more practices than others. All the seven friends formerly had taken a vow of same specific penance together, but when six friends broke their fast Mahabal continued, his fast. The desire to be above the

ordinary inspired this competition. As a result of this deception Mahabal acquired the karma that would result in being born as a woman.

All seven friends ascetics practiced sixty day fast and meditation. They all reincarnated as dev in Anuttar Viman. Now in this birth Mahabal king became Malli and you all six are my close friends.

Hearing this, the kings recalled their past lives, attained Jatismaran Gnyan. They all decided to renounce the world and continue the spiritual path that they had left in their earlier life.

Princess Malli gave up every thing and adopted self initiation at Sahasrabhavan. She destroyed her all ghati karma and attained absolute knowledge Keval Gyan on very same day. She became 19th Jain Tirthankar Mallinath.

Mallinath travelled through out the country preaching religion and showing the path of liberation to others.

Finaly she attained Nirvan on mount Sametshikhar.





Free self from ego and deception to avoid their bitter results.

SHAKUNIKA VIHAAR

On the outskirts of the pious city of Bharuch...

On the banks of the river Narmada...

There was once a very big banyan tree..

An eagle once built its nest on the branches of this tree and lived happily in it ...

One day it was sitting on the branch of this tree ... Suddenly a hunter came there and shot an arrow towards the eagle..

It fell down and was injured badly. It started squirming in pain... It was as if it was living the last moment of its life...

Luckily, Jain monks happened to pass from there and they saw the sad predictment of the eagle...They came there with a merciful heart and then recited the all powerful Navkar Mahamantra..

Even in its pain the eagle could concentrate its mind on the words of the mantra. *Namo arihantanam.*. *Namo Siddhanam.*.. The auspicious words made her forget the pain and injury.. it became calm and peacefully and silently ended up it's life... She died, but due to the power of the Navkar Mantra that she had heard in her last breath, she was born as a daughter of a queen in Sinhala Dweep (Ceylon). The Princess was so beautiful that she was named Sudarshana.

Once Sudarshana was sitting with her father, in the king's court. Seth Rushabh Dutt entered the king's court.. In the midst of his talk, he happened to sneeze... With every sneeze he started utturing the words "Namo Arihantanam".

These auspicious words were heard by princess Sudarshana also.. She felt that she had heard these words somewhere....hmmm She started retracing ..and contemplating on when and where she had heard these words...Trying to recollect her memory, she could retrace her past life..

She remembered the Bharuch City. The banks of the Narmada river. The Banyan her nest... The hunter and the arrow... and the final death, after hearing the Navkar Mantra from the Jain monks...

The sequence of events where so fast that she soon lost her consciousness...She swooned...and fell down. Soon she regained consciousness..Now she realised that this miraculous mantra had given her this luxurious birth..She developed a staunch trust on Jain religion and was really impressed by the miraculous effect of the Navkar Mantra, with the effect of which she could be reborn as a princess ...

She visited Bharuch. The place where she took her last breath. She saw the Munisuvrat Swamy temple there, known as Ashwabodha Tirth. She renovated (jirnodhaar) the whole temple and also added the painted murals depicting her previous birth and the after effects of chanting the Navkar Mantra.

The Ashwabodha Tirth is now known as "Shakunika Vihaar"



Navakar is miraculous mantra and we must always recite it to gain health, wealth prosperity and peace of mind.

ASHWAVBODHA TIRTH

11 lakh years ago.....

During the time of Munisuvrat Swami...

The 20th Tirthankar of the jains.

King Jeetashatru, ruled in Brigukutch now called Bharuch.

He wanted to organise the event of horse sacrifice.

During this event his own special and chief horse was to be sacrificed..

Munisuvrat Swami was in Pratistanpur.

He came to know about the sacrifice arranged by king Jeetashatru...

The merciful and the compassionate nature of the Tirthankaras would never allow such a thing to happen..

So the good Lord made a hasty retreat towards the venue of the sacrifice..

He travelled nearly 60 yojans that is 480 miles to reach Bharuch by walking..

A lot of people had gathered to witness the horse sacrifice..

Munisuvrat Swami...addressed the crowd and told them to be more compassionate towards the animals. The chief horse of the king was also listening to the sermons of Lord Munisuvrat..

Hearing the words of the Lord the horse started neiging..

He bowed down and walked around the Lord.

King Jeetshatru was looking at all these changes in the horse.

He asked the Tirthankar about the strange behaviour of the horse.

The Lord said, "There was a merchant named Jinadharma living in the city of Padma Khanda...

He had one Shaivite friend call Sagardatta.

Being religious, he had full faith in Shiva and so he built a beautiful temple of Shiva...

Once Sagardutta and Jindharma went to listen to the sermons of the Lord...

In the Sermons the Lord mentioned the benefits of building a Jain temple.

Impressed by this, Sagardatta build a Jain temple at a great cost...

Once Sagardatta was invited to a Shiva temple...to attend a religious function carried out at the Shiva temple...

There he observed that the place where the ghee was stored was infested with ants and insects. It was swarming with ants and they were getting crushed down by people...

When Sagardatta saw this, his merciful heart melted for these innocent creatrues...

He was shocked at the carelessness of the people.

He advised the priests to be more careful..

The priests did not heed to his advice, rather they scolded him for being converted into Jainism..

The words of the Priest pierced him so badly that he died of heart failure..He was then born as this sacrificial horse..

Munisuvrat Swami taught him the importance of religion, mercy and compassion..

The good Lord advised him to be compassionate not only towards human beings but also with animals.

Offering of animals in sacrifice is highly irreligious... and unethical...

The king was highly impressed with the preachings of the Lord.. He set the sacrificial horse free and stopped all animal sacrifice forever.

The horse willingly accepted Anshan or fast until death...and died in auspicious meditation.. He was born in the 8th devloka or heaven.

Having experienced the benefits and importance of religion, he built a Munisuvrat Swami temple on the place where he died.

A sculpture of a horse was put in front of the temple in remembrance of his past life...This place came to be known as Ashwavbodha Tirth...



MORAL

Animal sacrifice is one of the bad, violent and harmful activity. Be merciful and compassionate. Live and let live must be the motto of our life.



KING NEMINATH

The beautiful city of Shauryapuri...

In the state of Uttar Pradesh.

King Samundravijay and Queen Shiva Devi once ruled over Shauryapuri.

When the marriage was consummated, and Shivadevi was pregnant, she visualized a series of green gems or jewels...known as Arista...Hence they named him Aristanemi...

Due to political and religious disturbances, the yadav clan migrated to the western coast of Gujarat..near Girnar Mountain..

Samudravijay king gave him the best education, and well-versed him in all the arts needed to run a kingdom..

Aristanemi was very strong, so his brother Shri Krishna always feared that his brother would take away his kingdom..

To keep him indulged, Krishna encouraged his wives to convince him for marriage.

He wanted them to make Nemikumar ready for tying the nuptial knot..

NemiKumar was least intersted in tying the knot..But when everyone tried to convince him, he remained silent..

His silence was taken as his acceptance for marriage..

Krishna then asked Ugrasen, the king of Gujarat to give the hand of his daughter Rajimati for Nemikumar...

There was no reason to refuse and both of them were engaged..

The date of marriage was finalized..

All became busy with wedding preparations, in order to organise a grand and memorable wedding...

On the wedding day ..

Nemikumar alighted on the horse and started moving towards the wedding ground ..

The yadav kul joined in large numbers to witness the grandeur and partake in the festivities..

The procession now moved towards the wedding venue..

And the inevitable event happened..

Nemikumar suddenly heard the cries of animals and birds..

He was surprised..

He went near the place of sound and saw the animals in cages..shivering with fear...

He asked the reason for these animals being caged "Why are they making noises..? Why are they frightened? Why can't we free them and make them happy? Why are you keeping them in such fearful cages??

The charioteer replied.. "Oh Lord!, these animals are to be slaughtered for your wedding dinner.."

That was the end of all the excitement of getting married..

NemiKumar was shocked, hurt and full of compassion for all the beings that would be massacred just for the sake of his getting married..

He could not bear to see the suffering of these deaf and dumb animals..

He asked his charioteer to open the cages of animal and release them from bondage..

He then told him to reverse the direction of the chariot..

Nemikumar was filled with remorse..He started thinking..

"Each and every animal loves his life..All want to live..No one wants to die. What is the concept behind such violence...Violence begets pain and gives sadness ...No one gets peace with violence..misery begets misery..if you give pain you will receive pain..

He decided not to marry at all..

All his friends and relatives tried to reason with him and convince him to continue the marriage functions.

Even the bride and her father begged him not to betray and defame them by going back.

But the decision was made..

Nemikumar returned to his kingdom..

Nine lokantik Gods came and requested him "For universal welfare, please establish a Dharmatirth.."

Realizing that it was time for renouncing the world, NemiKumar started Samvatsarik daan or donating for a complete year.. Then he left the palace and kingdom..

He proceeded to Raivata udhyan...

Many of the inhabitants of his kingdom followed him along with celestial and hellish beings..

He went under a Ashoka tree and removed his clothes and ornaments..

He pulled five fistful of hairs and accepted monkhood...Many subjects were inspired and 1000 people accepted monkhood with him...

He proceeded to the Girnar Mountain..

He stood steadfast in meditation for fifty four days and annihilated all Ghati karma..and attained pure complete knowledge..Keval Gyan.

He now established the four fold sangh and became a Tirthankar. Tirthankar Neminath..

Rajemati also adopted the life of an ascetic and became the first nun of his fold. She undertook lot of penance and meditation..thereby destroying all karmas.. She finally attained kevalgyan and liberation from the cycle of births and deaths.

Sometimes a single incident can change one's life and give him liberation and absolute happiness.





What you give same you get...you give happiness you will get happiness you give pain and sorrow you will receive the same. You have to decide what you want?



TEN BIRTHS OF SHRI PARSWA NATH

Jainism describes twenty four Tirthankaras in each era.

This avasarpini has also seen the births of 24 Tirthankars...

Among these, Lord Parswanath was the twenty third Tirthankar.

Scriptures describe 10 bhav or incarnation of the holy Lord.

Jainism illustrates the births taken after the acquiring of samkit or samyaktwa..of the Tirthankars..

Here is a brief description of all the bhavs..

In Jambudweep's Bharat kshetra, there is this town of Potanapur...

Once it was ruled by King Arvind..His spiritual Guru was Vishwabhuti...

His wife was Anudhdhari...She gave birth to two sons Kamath and Marubhuti...

After the demise of Vishhwabhuti. The king appointed the elder son Kamath as the official religious priest. Due to the power of his position, the crazy Kamath harrased the wife of his younger brother Marubhuti. When Marubhuti came to know about it he complained to the king. The king punished Kamath and terminated his service and made Marubhuti the new priest. Unhappy about this sudden turn of events, Kamath took Diksha and adopted a life of monkhood and started performing penance.

After 12 long years he came back to the town as a Tapasvi monk..When Marubhuti came to know about this, he came to offer his respect to his brother and he bowed down to the monk;. But the revengeful monk hit his brother's head with a huge stone.. Due to this hitting Marubhuti, who was the soul of Shri Parshwanath Prabhu, died. This was the first birth and the starting of the revenge full births..

Second birth...

Marubhuti died and took birth as an elephant named Sujataka in the forest of Vindhyachal mountain region .

Meanwhile Kamath acquired the birth of a flying serpent named kurkuta after his death as a monk.

Once monk Arvind Rajarshi came to the forest.

Knowing that Marubhuti acquired the form of a elephant he chose to preach him..

While hearing his preaching, the elephant could recollect his past birth...It decided to take austere vows .

After this Sujataka bowed down to the benevolent monk and went away..

Coincidentally, the kurkata serpent happened to see him, and vengeance was aroused...He gave vent to his feelings and stung the elephant...

The elephant died with auspicious meditation..that was the end of the second birth..

Third birth..

Due to the peaceful death, Marubhuti was born as a celestial being in the eighth devloka. Due to the

revenge full nature kurkuta serpent, after his death, was born as an inhabitant of the hell. This was the third incarnation of Parswanath..

Fourth birth..

In the fourth birth, Marubhuti was born as King Kiranavega in the Mahavideh region..

The town was Tilavati in Jambudweep..

True to his past religious preferences, he practiced abstinence and finally took monkhood....

In the midst of his vihaar, he traveled on the Vaitadaya mountain..

He started his meditation or kayotsarg on Haimshila peak...

On the other hand Kamath ended his birth in hell and was reborn as a serpent in the same mountain region..

The sight of the Muni, revived his enmity of last birth..

He stung the leg of the meditating monk ..and that ended the fourth birth..

Fifth birth..

Marubhuti took birth in 12th Devlok because of his religious activities and Kamath due to his revenge on the monk, was reborn in the burning fifth hell..

Sixth incarnation..

It was the town of Shubhankara in the Mahavideh region ..

After ending his birth of 12th Devlok, Marubhuti was born as king Vajranabh in this place.

Once Shri Kshemankar Tirthankar Prabhu happened to visit the town..

The king went to see him and offered his salutations...

He heard the sermons and was filled with detachment... He accepted initiation or Diksha into the holy fold . The new monk now studied all the 11 anga and obtained the Jangacharan labdhi..

With this achievement he went to the jwalan mountain in the Vijay region and remained there in deep meditation or kayotsarg...

Kamath after suffering innumerable pains in the fifth hell, left that abode to transmigrate into multiple births.. in the world and was finally born as a hunter (bhil) by the name Kuranga in the same region as Marubhuti..

Seeing the Sadhu, he was provoked with a revengious feeling ..He killed him with an arrow.

The monk could not sustain the injury and immediately succumbed to death..that ended the sixth incarnation.

Seventh birth...

As per the scriptures, Marubhuti due to his meditation and austerity, was born in the celestial world, in exactly middle Graiveika. And Kamath due to the sin of killing a saint, in his birth as a hunter, was born as a hellish being... This was the seventh bhav of both..

Eighth birth..

The town was Puranpura in Jambudweep's Shubhankara Vijay...Ascending from his celestial birth Marubhuti was born as a chakravarti here by the name Suvarnabahu..

After listening to religious preachings, of Tirthankars, he realised the futility of life and renounced the world..He performed penances like the Vis-sthanak tap and acquired the Tirthankar naam karma..which would enable him to become a Tirthankar himself...

Kamath, after his hellish incarnation, was born as a lion in the forest..

Once he saw the Muni in the forest, and the antagonism of past birth rushed in his mind..He killed the pious monk and that ended the eighth incarnation of both..

Ninth incarnation....

The pious mind and the austerity of the monk along with his peaceful attitude towards all situations, rewarded him with a birth in the tenth celestial abode called Pranata Devloka... And with the revenge in his mind Kamath, as a lion was born in fourth hell..or narak to bear innumerable suffering..That was the ninth birth of both..

Tenth and last birth...

The soul or jeev or Marubhuti took its karmic garb in Bharat kshetra of Jambudweep region...

He was conceived in the Womb of Queen Vama.. the wife of king Ashwasena.. He was named Parswa kumar...This was his last incarnation as Lord Parshwanath..



MORAL

One thought of revenge gives rise to the series of revengeful births.

Which results in pain, sorrow, troubles and violent behaviour.



PARSWANATH AND MEGHMALI..

The holy city of Varanasi...

On the banks of River Ganga..

On the outskirts of the town...

Kamath tapasvi was busy doing penance..around a fire pit.

The curious people of the town came to watch what he was doing..

The young Parshwakumar.. heard about the narration of this performance from the balcony of his palace..

He wanted to see what was going on.. and hence went to the place of the yagna..

With the power of his avadhi gyan. Parshwakumar could visualise a burning snake among the logs placed in the fire pit..lit by Kamath..

Parswanath was alarmed. He told "Oh Ascetic! What you are doing has no religious event in it... It is ignorance to cause suffering to anyone.. You are unnecessarily torturing the soul and that would not achieve any purpose."

Listening to this the tapas got very infuriated and said, "A prince does not know anything about penance and chanting nor about fasting. You are from a noble clan and can only ride elephants and horses. Only a yogi knows about penance and hence they will know more about jeev Daya or compassion to animals..

Parshwakumar insisted that even in the yagna there was violence.. To prove his point, he asked his servant to remove the wood containing a half burnt snake. He asked the servant to split the wood and remove the snake. Seeing the snake breathing its last moments. Parshwakumar's servant chanted the immortal Navkar Mantra.. With the effect of this Mantra the snake died in auspicious meditation and good thoughts.. After it's death the snake was reborn as a Devta known as the Dharnendra... He came to be known as Nagendra or the king of Bhavanpati Devtas..

Kamath felt very insulted due to the sudden turn of events. Due to his stubbornness of accepting the truth and because of the act of performing ignorant penance, he was reborn as a devta Meghmali, among the Bhavanpati Devas..

Later on Parshwakumar took Diksha and attained monkhood..

After initiation, the wandering Parshwamuni came near an acetic ashram...

He stood under a Banyan tree near a well at night in complete kausagh or meditation..

Meghmali, with the power of his avadhi gyan, noticed the meditating Parshwamuni.

The antagonism of the previous birth got aroused and he assumed different forms of troubling the Muni.. He assumed the forms of scorpion, snake, lion, elephant and many other forms to just hinder the meditation of the Muni....

All these trials and tribulations did not deter Parshwanath from remaining firm in his meditation...

But Meghmali was bent on causing him more and more hurdles... He now created a vicious storm and blew the wind so strongly. His eyes, nose and the ears.. were filled with dust...

It was as if the breath of God would be suffocated..

But Parshwamuni was not discouraged..He remained undaunted in his own task...

Finally Mehmalli generated thunderstorm with thunderous lightening..

He then produced incessant rain... The rain was so much that it reached the neck of the meditating Parshwanath..

Due to his divine influence it did not cause flood in any nearby region..

At that moment the throne of Dharnendra Devta started trembling.. Trying to analyse the reason for this disturbance, Dharnendra could decipher the complete situation because of his Avadhi Gyan... He saw the atrocities performed on the good Lord..

Immediately he left the heavenly abode and reached the place where the Muni was in dhyan... With its hood it created an umbrella and with its tail he lifted the lord higher up than the water in which he was drenched...He created a Lotus under the feet of Prabhu.

Dharnendra in his avadhi Gyan, saw the atrocities of Meghmali and warned him". Why are you always having a vengeance against Parswa Prabhu?"

The good Lord may tolerate this but' I will not tolerate any of this disturbance.. I will not allow any suffering on my Prabhu. So saying he threw his weapon the vajra towards Meghamali..

The frightened Meghmali immediately fell upon the feet of Prabhu and took refuge in Prabhu's feet..

He started pleading again and again, asking forgiveness for his crimes....

Dharnendra Devta told him, "Oh ungrateful being, I am not punishing you, because you have taken the shelter of Prabhu. He withdrew his vajra and left for his abode..

Meghmali was now repentant. He asked forgiveness for the enimity of the past 10 births...He performed a devotional dance and went away to his place. This place was then famous as Ahichhatra Tirth.





God helps those who walk on the true path of religion. Truth may be troubled but never defeated. So always walk on the true path without any fear.



VARDHAMAN AND MAHAVIR

The beautiful city of Kshatriya kunda, is in the pious state of Bihar..

King Siddharth ruled the city...

His wife's name was Trishala Devi...

In due course of time, Trishala Devi, gave birth to a very handsome, elegant and beautiful son...

Ever since Trishala conceived him, she could feel a change in the country.

As soon as the womb was consummated, there was a spurt and sudden rise in the wealth and prosperity of king Siddharth..His glory, health, fame, respect and good will increase by many folds...

Considering this, his parents decided to name him, **Vardhaman**...meaning ever increasing...

Once, when he was about 8 years old an incident happened....

Vardhman was unlike the children of his age. He never liked to go out and play with the other children. One day his mother Trishala told him, "Oh Vardhaman! Why are you sitting here at home all the time. Go and play with the children of your age.

So Vardhaman went to play, just with the intention of making his mother happy. Around the same time, it so happened that Indra in his heavenly assembly happened to praise Vardhaman for his courage and fearlessness. This praise aroused the jealousy of one of the celestial Gods and he decided to test the courage of Vardhaman.

The celestial God assumed the form of a giant cobra. When the children saw the cobra, they all started running helter skelter...

But the courageous Vardhaman stayed there only. He even told the children not to be scared and assured them that he will soon throw it away. He then caught the cobra with his hand and threw it away on the other side. The celestial God could not defeat him in his first test..

But he was very adamant to prove his point. He tried a second attempt. The devta assumed the form of a normal child.. and joined the playing children..

They decided to play a running race..

Two children should run towards targeted huge tree. The winner would get a piggy back ride on the shoulders of the loser...

As planned, the Devta paired up with Vardhaman in the race and as wished he purposefully allowed Vardhaman win.. As per the rules he offered to take Vardhaman on his back..

As soon as Vardhman climbed up, the celestial Devta started increasing his figure bigger and bigger..Soon he assumed a gigantic form to threaten and frighten the young child..

With the help of his "Avadhi Gyan", Vardhaman came to analyse the situation and realised that this person was not a normal child but someone in disguise..

He fearlessly gave a mighty blow on the top of the guised person with his clenched fists.

The celestial being could not withstand this mighty blow.

He left his guise and assumed his original form. He bowed down to Vardhaman and asked pardon for his shameful deed..

He admitted that there might be many veer or fearless persons but "You are **Mahaveer**"

Hence forth this name came to be associated with Vardhaman. His parents had named him Vardhaman.But the Celestial God bestowed him the name Mahaveer and it became a permanent title.





We are followers of Mahaveer so we must know and follow the path of courage and fearlessness. No one can move us from our true religious path.



THE HINDRANCE OF THE HAMMERED NAILS

The vihaar of Veerprabhu

The town of Shanamani hold the memory of a painful incident of Prabhu...

Once prabhu reached Shanamani village...in the course of his vihaar..

In the outskirts of the village, Veer Prabhu stood in "Pratima meditation."

A cowherd came there..

Seeing Prabhu standing there, he left his bullocks there and just told Prabhu to take care..He then left for the village..

The words went unheard because Prabhu was in his own meditation..

Having completed his work the cowherd returned back..

He did not see his bullocks. He searched for them here and there but he did not find them.

So he asked Veer Prabhu, "Oh Lord Devarya! Where are my bullocks?"

Prabhu remained silent in meditation..

The cowherd felt that this person was purposefully avoiding his question because he had hidden the bullocks....

Therefore the cowherd became very furious, and he hammered wooden nails in both the ears, in such a

way that the pointed ends of both the nails after passing through the ears, touched each other. That means the pain must have been so deep.

He then cut off the part of the nails coming out from the ears so that no one can remove the nails..

Imagine such a cruel act!!

Veer Prabhu remained tolerant to this inhumane violence with calmness and equanimity

It would leave one to wonder that what was the Karma that let to this cruel act of harming our Prabhu?

Well, Jain religion always believes that there is a counter reaction to every action..

This action of the cow herd was also an anti reaction to the action of Veer Prabhu in his previous birth..

Let us look back into that incident...

Veer Prabhu was a Tripust Vasudev in his past birth.. It was his habit to listen to music before going to sleep. It so happened that the musician was so engrossed in the music that he did not realise that the king was already sleeping.

The noise of the music woke up the king from his slumber.

Seeing the musician engrossed in the music he decided to punish him by poring molten lead into his ears...

The result of this violent Karma gave rise to the nail incident in this birth.

After his meditation was over Prabhu travelled and reached Madhyama Apapa village.

In the afternoon Lord Veer went to take arms from merchant Siddharth's house.

The shravak saw the deep pain of Prabhu and asked his physician kharakka to see what was wrong..

The well versed physician soon realised that there was something like a obstacle..a shalya.. in the body of Veer Prabhu. Therefore the physician along with the merchant reached the place where Prabhu was standing in Kausagh or meditation.. On examining Veer Prabhu, they found that the nails were in the ears. But the question was how to remove them..? As there was nothing to hold the nails and pull it out.. Finally they pulled out the nails with tongs...

At that moment the pain was so drastic that Prabhu gave out a shout that was so loud that it brought a crack on the big Sheela which was nearby and the uproar was heard in whole garden.

After treating Prabhu with Samarohini medicine, the merchant and the physician left for their homes... The series of Prabhushri affliction started with a Shepherd and ended with this Shepherd's violence.

The removing of the nails from the ears of Prabhu can be considered as the maximum affliction and most painful upsarg imparted to him.

This place was Bammanwada and today a temple stands to commemorate this incident of Veer Prabhu.. The cracked shila also stands there to relate the tale even today..



MORAL

Like Lord Mahavir to annihilate karma we must achieve the virtue of non-violence, tolerance, calmness and equanimity.



LORD MAHAVIR AND SANGAMDEV

Walking on the path of accomplishment (Sadhana).. performing very hard penances to ward off karma, sanctifying the villages and the cities with his Vihar. Mahaveer Prabhu reached Dradh Bhoomi... The land of non Aryans.(The uncivilised)....

Outside the podhala village, in Palasa temple..He undertook the three days fast called Atham...For one night he was in Padima-kausaga or meditation...

Around the same time there was a discussion in the court of Saudharmendra...the lord of celestial beings... Lord Indra was all praise for the Deep austerilities and the meditative practice of Lord Mahaveer..

"No one in all the three world is able to disrupt the peace and meditation of the Good Lord" Saudharmendra declared..

This aroused a lot of jealousy in the mind of a particular Devta named Sangam Dev..

He boasted to Indra, "Oh Lord of the Gods Devendra. Your act of appreciating the human beings is insulting the power of the Devas... I can disturb the meditating Lord in no time.. Is there any human being who is more stronger and more powerful than the celestial gods, that the gods cannot disturb them? That seems highly impossible..

Raged with anger, Sangam Dev went near Prabhu..

First he started disturbing him by filling his mouth, nose, ears, eyes etc. with dust... The parts of the body of Mahavira looked in such a way that Prabhu was feeling

suffocated and unable to breathe.. but he remained deep in his meditation..

Sangam Deva then created big faced ants which moved over the body of Prabhu biting the skin and moving from one part of the body to the other, and from front to back..creating holes in the whole body.. the whole body started looking like a sieve..

But the good Lord did not deter from his act of meditation..

The disturbing Dev then created big mosquitoes and Godflies... These mosquitoes stung the good Lord like a vajra and blood started oozing out like cows milk from the sting bites....

Then he hurt Prabhu with sharp teethed Ghimelas..

He created violent scorpion, which stung the body of Prabhu and caused fierce pain..

But He could not succeed in his act of disturbing the meditating Lord..

Sangam Dev then created mongooses, which started tearing the flesh of Mahavir prabhu's body with their sharp molar teeth...

But the good Lord remained undaunted in his own meditation..

The Dev then left loose big snakes which stung Prabhu with great strength...

But in spite of all these disturbances Prabhu remained calm and collected in his own soul thoughts.

The angered Dev now let big rats over the body of Prabhu. Even the bites of the rats were not able to distract the attention of the almighty..

Now the irritated Dev created elephants who

would pick up Prabhu with their trunks, thrashing down on the ground..and stamping him...

With the tusks the elephants would hurt and crush him under their feet.

The female elephants also joined with their male counterparts in the act of hurting the good Lord...

When Sangam was not successful in spite of all these efforts at even distracting Prabhu, he changed his mode of distraction...

He now created a demon who would try to disrupt the meditation of Prabhu with thunderst approach and loud laughter...

But Prabhu was firm in his task of suppressing any feelings of pain...

Then came the turn of the big tigers who with their hard teeth and biting nails literally tore the body of Prabhu causing him infinite pain...

When Sangam Dev saw that all these violent methods were unable to unruffle Mahaveer, he adopted to measures of emotional blackmail..

He made illusionary characters of king Siddhartha and queen Trishla... The king and the queen appealed, to the son to save them from monsters who were giving unbearable pains." "Please save us from them otherwise they will kill us". The Dev tortured Prabhu with such emotional blackmailing also..

None of these were able to unnerve nor perturb the Lord..

So now he created soldiers who lit stoves at the feet of the meditating lord and stuck fire in them..

Over the lit fire, they kept vessel over it and started cooking rice over the stove made by the legs of Prabhu..

But Mahaveer Prabhu was neither provoked nor unsettled...

The cruel chandals brought in cages with birds having sharp beaks.. the birds poked the body of Mahavir Prabhu with sharp peaks.. causing deep injury on the body..

In spite of all the harassment, Prabhu remained firm in his task..

So now Sangam Dev gave vent to fast winds... The strong blowing winds blew Prabhu again and again hurt Him by tossing him down...again and again..

The next was the turn of a cyclone which whirled Prabhu like a wheel and rolled him round and round in the wheel...Still Prabhu didn't get agitated..

The Dev now brought a big wheel with 1000 proportions of weight it was so heavy that it could even powder the peak of Meru mountain into pieces if it was rolled over it.. With that wheel Sangam Dev hurt Prabhu's head.. The blow was so severe that it buried Prabhu in the ground up to his knees..

There was absolutely no discomfort on the face of Mahavir. It was as if he was already in his inner world and unperplexed by the outer world..

Finally when he found himself unsuccessful with all his efforts.. the Dev made the illusion that the night was over and it was already morning.. Addressing the God, he told that his time of meditation was already over and it was morning.. But the Prabhu in his knowledge knew that it was night still.

Now the Dev changed his tactics and said, Oh! Mahrshi I am really impressed with your penance and meditation. So now I am willing to grant you one wish...If you want I can give you heaven or if you want I can give you moksh or salvation..

Even after this also Mahaveer Prabhu showed no reaction..

Now Sangam Dev sent a lot of gods and goddesses to appease the God and attract his attention by their beauty and melodious voice...

But none of their attractions could waver the thoughts of the good Lord..

In a matter of one night Sangam Dev performed 20 such disruptive afflictions and troubled Prabhu. Veer Prabhu showered his compassion on Sangam Dev inspite of all his disturbances.

Here one poet is trying to picturize the predicament of Prabhu who has the ability to destroy the world and the strength to cause its uplift...and give salvation to all his devotees yet he faced all the troubles given by Sangam Deva without a single murmur..and did not use his strength to oppose him.

The poet now visualizes the role of anger.. It is as if anger is telling Prabhu, "All the acts of the Dev is unable to antagonise or anger Him, then what is the use of my staying with him he is not going to use me anyway..the nature of Prabhu is to forgive and pass on kindness..so saying anger leaves the side of Prabhu and moves away...

Veer Prabhu now started his Vihaar as if nothing had happened..Again.. in spite of all his acts of cruelty Sangam Dev was still not satisfied.. Wherever Prabhu went he followed him to harass him.. to the extent that

he went to spoil the food wherever Prabhu went to break his fast.. The varied troubles continued every time because of this Prabhu had to fast for 6 months, because the Dev did not give him any edible food..

Then Prabhu went to vajra village for gochri.

There also Sangam Dev made the food inedible and Prabhu had to come back without the food and start his meditation on a hungry stomach.

In spite of all these hardships and harassments Veer Prabhu remained firm and steady in his attempts to get enlightenment..

Finally the Dev himself got ashamed of his cruel and shameful acts and with a down cast face he went to Prabhu, bowed down to him and said" Oh Good Lord! Today, I admit that Saudharmendra's praise in the court about your satva (excellence essence and strength) was appropriate.. I have sinned very badly by committing so many crimes and methods of hurting and harrasing you..Please forgive me for my unforgivable action..

So saying the Dev went back to Dev lok.



MORAL

Lord Mahavir proved that human being is more stronger than celestnal being. This means human birth is very precious and we should not waste it only in material pleasures but must achieve spiritual upliftment.



THE MIRACLE OF TIRTHANKAR WORSHIP

Devpal was a young cowherd..

His daily task was to take cows for grazing in the morning and bring them back safely in the evening..

One fine day when he went to his masters house to take the cows, he saw the master worshipping Tirthankar Prabhu..

He thought..

"My master is so lucky..

Due to his worship of God, during his last birth, he has been able to acquire so many riches in this birth. Now in this birth also he has continued to worship the Tirthankar, so his next birth also will be prosperous. When will I be as lucky as this seth and get to pray and worship the Tirthankaras..?

When will I pave way for my happiness?

Children, If you pray fervently, God listens to our request.

Then as usual, he took the cows for grazing..

As he lay down under a tree.. he heard a crashing noise..

He went to the place of the noise and saw that a wall had fallen down..

He then saw a Murti of Aadinath Prabhu...

He was very happy..

He prepared a simple temple and placed the idol of Prabhu in it..

He danced gleefully, happy that he also got a Tirthankar Parmatma to Pray..

While offering his devotion he took a vow, that he will never take food and water without worshipping this idol..

This continued for sometime.

Once there was a heavy downpour of rain resulting in floods.

There was no way to cross the town and reach the place, where the temple had been built.

Having taken his vow, Devpal started his fasting..

The rain continued for complete 7 days and Devpal's fast also continued for 7 days..

The rain stopped after a week and Devpal rushed to his Prabhu..

Tears of joy and sorrow swelled in his eyes...

"How unlucky I am that I could not visit nor worship my dear God for last 7 days.

He was very sad and looked at God devotionally..

Pleased with his devotion, Goddess Chakeshwari appeared..

She offered him a boon.

"I am happy with your devotion..what is your desire? I will fulfill what ever you ask"

Devpal replied...

"If you want to grant me a boon, Give me the ability to worship Tirthankaras every day... There should not be any day when I am unable to worship my God. If you really want to grant me a boon, fulfill this desire of mine".

The Goddess asked him to ask something for himself but the boy was adamant that he wanted only worship the Lord and nothing else..

The Goddess told him

"Because of the unselfish demand that you have made and the devotion and worship that you have shown in the past few months. You will be rewarded with a kingdom and you will become a king one day...

Just as per the forecast of the Goddess. Devpal soon became the king.

Devpal..

This was the miraculous power of the devotion of the Jain Tirthankaras.



MORAL

Children..If u wish for health, wealth, success and happiness bow down to Arihant Paramatma..

Pray to Arihant and worship

Pray to Arihant and worship
Arihant with faith and devotion.



CHANDANBALA

Once upon a time..

The city of Champanagari...

King Dadivahana ruled over it..

Champanagari was once attacked by King Shatanik.. A war broke..

King Dadivahana was badly defeated...

One of the soldiers took away his wife Dharini and princess Vasumati as part of the victory..

Then came a period of trial...

The soldier now asked Dharini Queen to marry him..

But the faithful queen was not prepared to do anything of that sort.. She choose to die instead of betraying her husband..... She crushed her own tongue and ended her life...

The soldier was now very repentent for his action....

He now consoled Vasumati and called her as his own daughter....

But destiny always prevails and fate intervenes..

The soldier now decided to get rid of this girl and earn a good amount at the same time..

He decided to take her to the market and sell her...

See how the story of Karma works.. When our Karma manipulates there is nothing that we can do...

Vasumati who was once in the lap of luxury and a princess is being sold like an animal in the market..

Luckily a merchant named Dhanavaha happened to come to the market on that particular day..

He saw this girl being sold in the market. His kind heart melted. He now decided to buy her and end her ordeal...

He brought her home and started treating her like his own daughter...

Vasumati's voice was cool and soothing like sandalwood hence he named her Chandan Bala..

Once when the merchant came back home in the afternoon, all the other maids were not present.. so Chandan bala bent down and started washing the merchants feet..

While she was bending down her beautiful hair which was tied into a braid fell down...

Impulsively the seth lifted up that braid...

This scene was noticed by his wife Mula sethani..

This sent a series of thoughts in her mind.. she started doubting if the seth has really fallen in love with the girl and intended to marry her. If this happened her husband would not love her anymore..

The seeds of jealousy and threat were now sowed in her mind...

One day the merchant Dhanavaha had to travel for some work...

Making the best of the opportunity, Mula sethani, called for the barber and shaved off Chandanbala's head...

Giving vent to her jealous feelings she then tied Chandan Bala's legs with chains, beat her badly and locked her in a remote room..

Mula shethani then went away to her maternal place..

Dhanavaha returned back on the 4th day...

He was shocked to see the condition of his daughter Chandanbala... He then removed her out of the dark room..

Realising that she had not eaten anything for the past 3 days he searched for something to eat.. but there was nothing except uncooked lentils.. called adad na bakuda... He put them in the corner of a dust pan and made her eat on the threshold (Umbara) of the house..

He then went in search of an iron smith to break open the chains which bound the girl..

In spite of all the hardships Chandanbala was filled with noble intentions .She thought that as she had already fasted for 3 days, a period which is called as "Atham' in Jain religion, she decided that she would break her fast only after giving alms to any Saint....

There was no feeling of hatred neither any antigonism against anyone..

Around the same time Mahavir Prabhu also took some strict and serious vows...

He lay down a series of conditions and situations to breakdown his fast.. Only if all those conditions were complete, he decided that he would break his fast..

The various conditions were as follows...

First of all, regarding the dravya or the substances was concerned, he decided that he will now break his fast only with 'adad na bankuda' that is only uncooked lentils.. that also not in any lavish container, but only those lying in the corner of a dust pan.

From region or Kshetra point of view, the person who is going to offer alms must be sitting in the threshold of the house with one foot inside and one foot outside the house.

From the view of time or kaal..it should be a time when all the saints and people have retired after taking alms..

Finally from "bhav' or emotional point of view, the alms must come from a person who has been a beautiful princess once..but succumbed to painful circumstances.. with bald and shaved head..with chains in hands and legs..she must be unmarried...observing the penance of atham..with tears in her eyes..

If all these dravya kshetra kaal and bhav coincided, veer Prabhu was to accept alms..

The task seemed next to impossible...

People wondered if such conditions will ever be fulfilled..if Prabhu will ever be able to break his fast...

A lot of hunt went on..but the conditions laid down by Prabhu could not be complete..

Prabhu came back without alms..

Now Lord Mahavir came to the door of Chandanbala. She was very happy. All vows / conditions were fulfilled except one. Prabhu came but observing no

tears in her eyes, he returned back. Chandanbala seeing Prabhu returning back without taking food. Tears started rolling down from her eyes. She again called Lord with heavy heart. Lord Mahavir saw that his all conditions are fulfilled. Lord came back and took 'adad bakula' from Chandanbala.

Prabhu broke his 5 months and 25 days fasts. Chandanbala broke his three days fast there was a miracle-

Chandanbala's all chains broke... hair came on her head...12.5 crs. gold coins showered up on her.

Finally Chandanbala became first sadhvi of Lord Mahavir.





One must have utmost faith in religion inspite of various hardships and difficulties...



KAPIL MUNI

The city was the renowned Kaushambi..

There lived a learned Brahmin called Kashyapa..

He held a very prestigious position in the court..

His wife Sridevi gave birth to a son whom they named Kapil..

When Kapil was 15 years old his father passed away..

Kapil was a very pampered child and hence did not acquire much knowledge..

With the result that the position of his father was given to another scholar..

The money accumulated by his father was soon squandered and spent by Kapil.

One day Sridevi was standing on the threshold of her house. She happened to visualise the passing by of the scholar who was appointed in her husband's place..

The prosperity of this person reminded her of the good old happy days when her husband was alive..

Tears of sadness at the present situation rolled down her eyes.

She repented for the current situation and for the fact that her son could not be educated..

The depression of enjoying the happy days combined with the bad situation of the present day made her more and more depressed..

One day Kapil asked her the reason for her depression and sadness..

With a heavy heart Sridevi told him the reason of her agony..

"If you were learned, then no one could have got the position of your father the new scholar is enjoying all the benefits while we are living in a state of poverty.."

Kapil retaliated,

"Mother, it is not that I am ignorant or that I do not have any knowledge.. I have the capacity of learning but have never taken it seriously.. but now if this is your wish I will pursue my studies".

Sridevi was not very confident about her son's capacities.

But the son insisted that he wanted to go and study..

So finally Sridevi sent him to Indradut's house in Shravasti. He was his father's close friend.

After travelling for a long period of time Kapil reached his destination.

Indradutta welcomed him with warm heart and was happy to teach the son of his friend..

Kapil openly declared that he wished to pursue the education so that he could make his mother happy.. and regain all that she had lost..

The teacher was ready to teach, but there was another problem.

There was no source of income for Kapil and hence first that had to be arranged.

In those days they had to live on the alms that they received.

So Kapil had to visit a lot of houses to collect his livelihood This consumed a lot of time, and hence his study hours became very less.

Half of the day was spent in earning his livelihood and the rest of the time he had to sit to study..

The teacher once asked him about his progress.

Kapil told the truth..

"Teacher as I have to spend a lot of time in collecting alms. It takes up most of my time, I hardly have any time to study."

The teacher took pity on Kapil and arranged for him to stay with a family, so that his food necessity will be provided with.

But slowly he started dabbling with the family issues and all the necessities of the family that he started neglecting studies

Slowly, The householders started retracting their charity and their interest in Kapil's welfare.. so again Kapil fell the need of financial help..

Kapil once heard that the king of the town would offer two gold coins to the person who would bless him first in the morning..

A ray of hope arose in his mind..

He felt that this could be an easy way to earn money.

Everyday morning he would rush to the court but always would be late as someone else had already blessed the king.

This happened for many days..

He missed the opportunity of meeting the king everyday.

So he finally decided one day that he will sleep in the courtyard., so he would be able to go in first to bless the king..

As planned, he slept in the courtyard, but in the middle of the night, he saw the brightness of the moon and thought it was already dawn. He hurriedly dressed up and ran towards the court.

Thinking that he should not be late, he started running. He decided to reach the palace gate and wait over there so that he would be the first person to go in..

But destiny was something else.

The guards sensed something suspicious on seeing someone standing near the palace gate in the middle of the night. They arrested him.

Kapil argued a lot..

"I am innocent.. I have not done anything. I have come to meet the king and bless him. The guards listened to no reasons.

The next day the gaurds brought him before the king.

Kapil was so stunned with the turn of events that he could not utter a word..

Seeing his innocent face the king realised that he was not a culprit.

The King asked him what he was doing in the middle of night near the palace gate..

Kapil told, "I am innocent your highness! I had come with an intention of claiming the two gold coins that you offer to the person who gives you the first blessing of the day."

The king replied, "If you have under gone all the pain just for the sake of two gold coins, you can ask whatever you desire, I will give you."

Kapil was now in a confused state of mind. He told the king that his mind was boggled as of now. He could not think clearly.

He asked the king for some time to decide...

The king granted him time till the next morning. The king asked him to sit in a garden nearby and contemplate on what he would like to obtain from the king.

He sat in a garden nearby to contemplate over what to ask..

Greed overtook his emotions now.

Instead of two gold coins he now decided to ask for 25 gold coins But then, after little thought he felt that 25 gold coins were too less so now he increased the amount to a hundred gold coins..

The lust for money increased more and more..

His greed told them that 100 gold coins will be over in a very short period of time.

What would he do later? So now he decided that he would ask for half of the Empire of the King but with that half empire that king would still be the ruler.

So he decided that if he had to ask, he would ask the entire Empire from the king.

At first the thought appealed to him.

But his virtues intervened...

He started feeling uncomfortable..

His conscience started pricking him..

"How ungrateful I am! The king offered me what I desired and I want to demand his whole kingdom? How selfish and how unfair of me, to be ungrateful to my very benefactor? Indeed my greed has overtaken all my virtues...I really can't do this to the kind king."

So saying he reversed back his desire from demanding full kingdom..to half kingdom...then backwards to 100 coins..

Finally he thought I have come only for two coins..I will take that and go back.

"But why two coins..these coins have been the cause of greed..

I have crossed limits of greed and covetousness.... from these two coins I wanted to dethrone the king.

Really the demands of greed are limitless..the sky is the limit..

The world is a selfish one, it is indeed a myth..

The earlier I free myself from its clutches the better.."

He was now an enlightened man..He decided not to go back into the lanes of entangling sansaar..He renounced the world and conquered a different world..the world of the soul..the limitless bounty and rich qualities of the soul.



MORAL

The story of Kapil is a moral to all of us..

If allowed, Greed and avarice leads us into a web..

a web of sins and consequent suffering..

But when combined with contentment..

satisfaction.. being happy with what one has..

then happiness and peace prevails..

CHANDKAUSHIK

Lord Mahavir...when he was a monk, used to travel from village to village...once he was going towards Vachala city. To reach Vachala he had to cross deep forest, people living near this forest requested Mahavir not to pass through this forest, as in this forest there was one dangerous poisonous snake known as 'drushti visha sarp', He was know as Chandakaushik.

Mahavir monk had no fear as he was practicing supreme non-violence. All living beings were his friends, no hatred towards anyone. He convinced people, "don't worry. Nothing will happen to me. I am confident." He started his journey ahead.

He reached the dense forest. This was the area of Chandkaushik, Monk Mahavir stood there in meditation. Tranquality and compassion was flowing from his heart. In short time Chandkaushik sensed human smell. He was surprised. After very long time some human being had entered in his area. He came out from his burrow, saw person standing near his area. He was very angry. He started hissing to threaten Monk Mahavir but Mahavir was immersed in deep meditation. Mahavir did not get affected, remained steady. Now Chandkaushik became angrier and he blew poisonous venom towards Mahavir Prabhu. He tried again and again but he couldn't see any result. Nothing disturbed Mahavir. Now he bit Prabhu's feet & tried to observe his reaction but was surprised to see his calm and peaceful face. He observed milk flowing from foot instead of blood.

Slowly Mahavir opened his eyes...raising his hand...

giving blessing to Chandkaushik ...with love and affection he said "Buj ...bujChandkaushik buj." Meaning calm down...calm down...Chandkaushik calm down.

With the heart touching words of Mahavira a miracle happened "Drushti vish sarp, calmed down... He concentrated his eyes on Mahavir's face. He experienced inexplicable feelings in his heart. He slowly realized that this type of monk I have seen some where before. He tried to recollect his memory...at last he remembered his last two births. He experienced the effect of anger and ego in the life. Chandkaushik realized the truth of life. Chandkaushik bowed down his head in the feet of Mahavir respectfully.

Chandkaushik accepted anashan. Chandkaushik realized his mistakes and his sinful unauspicious deeds. He repented his sins. Now he was free from anger. After taking Anshan he kept his head inside hole (his burrow) and body outside

He remained in this position for fifteen days. During that time many people came there to see Chandkaushik, who was not harmful to anyone now. Some people worshipped him, offered him milk etc. while some people pelted stones and started beating. But at all times Chandkaushik remained calm and quite. He destroyed many bad karmas. After completing fifteen days anshan he died and due to virtuous meditation was born in 8th devlok i.e. in heaven.

MORAL

Anger and ego is path of hell, while calmness and quiteness is path of eternal happiness.

MEGHAKUMAR

About twenty five hundred years ago... In Rajagrihi city... There was a king by name Shrenik and his Queen Dharini. They had a beautiful son Meghakumar.

As he grew up he was married to eight rich... educated beautiful and worthy girls.

Once Lord Mahavir visited Rajagrihi city. King Shernik along with his all family members went to hear the discourse of Lord Mahavir. Meghakumar was impressed by the discourse. He felt fed up with this world. Attachment to wordly things was a hindrance. Hence he renounced the world. He accepted monkhood.

At night he had to sleep on a 'Santhara' near the door of the Upashray. During the night some monks passed by the place where Meghakumar was sleeping. Consequently, dust from their feet used to disturb and trouble the sleeping Muni Meghakumar.

Hence he thought -"How happy I was in my palace, no one was disturbing me...and now here how these sadhu's sleep!" finally he came to the decision that I will give up this monkhood life."

Meghakumar came to lord Mahavir to narrate his troubles, but lord Mahavir before listening to him started telling his past birth. How he had suffered for the sake of the happiness of others.

Bhagwan Mahavir said -Dear Meghakumar! you were an elephant in the past life. Once in summer fire broke out in the forest. Many animals were burnt... You

ran away to save yourself. But unfortunately you fell into a pond full of slush due to the smoke. Here another elephant rushed at you and wounded you by the thrusts of his sharp tusks. You suffered from the wounds for seven days and died at the end.

You were then reborn as an elephant in the Vindhya mountains again fire broke out in the forest. So large area was cleared of the trees by your fellow elephant's. But again another fire broke out in the forest. Many small animals took shelter in the clearing. A frightened rabbit also arrived there to seek protection from the fire. Mean while your skin was itching and you raised your foot to scratch the itching part. And that rabbit esconsced itself in the vacant space under your foot seeing the poor animal you did not put down your foot but kept it raised out of pity for it. The fire lasted for more than two days consequently, your foot got swollen and you collapsed and died on the spot. After death, you were born as the son of king Shrenik and now you are here as a monk.

The narration of the story of his past birth opened the eyes of Meghkumar. He regretted the idea of giving up his monkhood. He decided to lead a life of an ideal sadhu. He practised very hard penance and gave up his life after observing a fast of one month. He was then born as Ahmendra God. He would be emancipated in course of time.

MORAL

One should have courage while walking on the path of religion and not be disturbed by hardships.

I WAS AN ORPHAN... I HAD NO PROTECTOR.

Magadha was a fascinating and beautiful city..

King Shrenik was once a ruler of Magadha.

One day, he happened to visit a beautiful garden...

A monk was meditating under a tree...

Shrenik was surprised to see the young, delicate, handsome and perfect figured monk.

After offering reverence, the king sat near the feet of the holy meditating saint.

Observing the calm, collected and peaceful face of the young renounced saint, King Shrenik asked him, "You are so young.. you are full of vigour and vitality why did you renounce the world full of pleasures and became a saint? I am really inquisitive about knowing the reason behind this .."

The saint smiled sweetly and replied, "Oh King! I was an orphan...I had no protector..no benefactor over me."

The king was surprised by this frank declaration.

He laughed and said, "How can a well versed and accomplished person like you have no protector? Even so, if this is true, from today I am your protector...I am willing to be your benefactor...

Human life is so scarce..you have chanced to get this human birth..enjoy the pleasures of life with your friends and family.." The saint replied, "Oh King Shrenik, you yourself are an orphan. How can you become my patron, when you yourself are without a protector?

The king was astounded.. He thought the saint had not recognised him.

He decided to elaborate.. He told, "Oh saint! I am the ruler of Magadha."

I have palaces, horses, and all sorts of pleasure objects..

I have enormous power and my subjects are under my command...

I have an army and a commander in chief..

With all this protection how can you tell I am without a protector?

The saint replied.. "Oh King! I think you have not understood the meaning of the word orphan or without protection..."

He further added, "Oh King Shrenik! Listen to my life story. You will be able to understand the real meaning of an orphan."

"I was the son of the king of Kaushambi. Life was going on a very happy phase... But suddenly one day I caught up with a very nasty eye disease along with a severe burning fever."

They tried to cure me but, they could do nothing to help me out. This is when I felt I was really without any protection and without any protector ... A protector, who could really help me out of my pain and out of my suffering...

My mother, father, brothers and sisters tried all that they could do to help me relieve of the pain and the suffering that I was undergoing. But alas! No one could do anything to take away my pain. That was when I felt I was without a protector...

The pain became more and more intense. It was more than I could bear...

It was then that I decided to end the pain of births and deaths once forever.. I thought I will not be able to take the pain and bear the suffering again and again... I finally decided and promised myself, that if I could get rid of the horrible pain, I will renounce the world and become a monk. With this thought in mind I soon fell asleep...

And a miracle happened... The next day my pains really vanished.. As I had promised myself, I took the permission of my friends, family and relatives and renounced the world... to become a monk

I finally became the protector of my own self..."

The king was spell bound after hearing the truth. He now genuinely asked forgiveness from the saint for having asked the saint to relive the pleasures that he had absconded..

The king admitted, "You have made the best use of the human birth that you have received.. You have really made a great profit and gained true wisdom. Undoubtedly, you are the protector of all the unprotected beings.."

Religious seers are always trying to tell us that none of the worldly things will be able to protect us... Neither money nor friends... Neither the doctors nor the parents

will be able to give us true protection against the pain and suffering of the world. Only true understanding of the religion and the all time benefactors like the Arihant..or the enlightened souls... The siddh...or the liberated souls...and the sadhus or the persuing souls will be able to guide us through the worldly waters and enable us to swim safely through the ocean of life The trick of the trade is to accept the shelter of the almighty and surrender and entrust our precious life with complete faith...



MORAL

Beloved children! Now it is time for you to think whether you are with the protector or without a protector?



MAMMAN SETH

The beautiful Rajgrahi city is in the holy state of Bihar....

This incident occurred around 2500 years ago.....

King Shrenik was sitting with his Queen Chelna near the window of a palace..

It was raining cats and dogs..

The lightning was continuously flashing in the sky...

The river nearby the royal palace was in spate...

Logs of wood were adrift and a man was trying to pull them out of water....

Queen Chelna saw the scenario and she was surprised at this sight..

She informed what she has seen to the king and rebuked him saying...

"How ignorant you are about the life standards of your people.. A very poor man lives in a city and you are not even aware of this. How can a man be so poor and so indigent in spite of your able administration...?

The king turned and saw a lay man quad in a loin cloth carring a very heavy load of firewood. The kind King called the poor man and asked, "Who are you and why do you work so hard when the whole city is resting and the weather conditions are so severe?"

The poor man replied, "Sir! I am a baniya. My name is Mamman. I have a pair of Bullocks at my house. One of the horns of the Bullock remains to be made So I want to construct it and hence I am trying to work hard for that..

The kind wished to get a horn constructed for the baniya and hence asked him, "How much does it cost to construct a horn?"

Mamman replied, "Well I can't have the correct estimate of the expenses involved. But if you can come and see the Bullock you may have an idea. I want the fourth horn to be completely exactly the same as the three horns are..."

The king visited Mamman's house the next day. After crossing a number of rooms he came to a dark room. When the room was opened it was illuminated. The King saw a pair of bullocks made of gold and studded with precious gems.

The hoofs, and the nasal parts were studded with precious gems. The eyes were shining like real though they were made of gems.

The king was wonder stuck at the beauty of the Bullock. He told his queen, "Well, our treasury does not contain such precious gems that Mamman has. They are all very rare and costly. How can I pay for what he wants to make. I cannot afford it".

Then the king asked Mamman, "How are you planning to make the horn?"

Mamman replied, "My sons go abroad to earn money for the horn. We don't waste money neither do we waste time. We eat very meagre meals made with only one cereal and prepared with very less cooking oil. By saving more and more money I am planning to make the horn."

The king was bewildered at the staunch greed of the man who strived to save money to make a horn. For the sake of the horn he was willing to do hard work, forsake his food, and make his sons earn more and more.. "The greed of the man disturbed the king.."

After a few years, Mamman died without fulfilling his desire. He was born in hell as a result of his stinginess and the possessive instinct..

Possessiveness of mundane things, known as Parigrah condemns one with eternal damnation... It is the root cause of eternal misery and infinite births and deaths... Greed is the root cause of all sorrow..



MORAL

Possessiveness or Parigrah is a bad vice. Greed is the root cause of all sorrow.

TEARS OF PAIN

Kumarpaal...

The famous and reputed king of Gujarat...

He was renowned for his love and respect for religion..

His Tirthankar worship was the talk of the town..

He built many many temples to enable all the devotees to Part-take in the worship of the supreme God..

It is actually well said that he bejeweled the earth by his beneficial temples..

His son was Nrupsinh.

As destiny would have it at the minor age of 16, Nrupsinh. Was infested with a deadly disease and was counting his last days..

All the family members gathered around the dying son with sadness in their hearts and eyes.

Acharya Hemachandra started his sermons..

He explained the temporary nature of the world.. and asked him to take refuge.

In the mighty saviours.

The Arihant, Siddh, Sadhu and Jain Religion..

The Acharya prepared the young person's mind for a valiant death...

The son now concentrated his mind on Arihant and Siddh, the benevolent souls who have surpassed the journey of births and deaths and paved the path of eternal happiness.

All eyes were on the face of the son..

Suddenly everyone observed that tears started rolling from the corners of Nrupsinh's eyes.

All were very upset and nervous thinking that Nrupsinh was finding it hard to face death, and that is why he was very sad..

The Acharya started concentrating on giving courage to the departing soul..

"Dear Nrup..You are the son of a noble soul..you are a follower of Jain religion.. The follower of Arihant is never afraid of death.. The Arihants have proved that death is just a change of the body and the soul is permanent.. Hence we should face death with courage and a devotee is never afraid of death.. He can surpass the fear of death because he knows that death is a part of life.."

Listening to the words of the saint Nrupsinh replied;

"Gurudev please don't get me wrong..don't misunderstand me..

I am not sad because I am a guest on this earth for a very short period of time..

I am completely prepared for death but I am unhappy because I was unable to complete one ambition that I had in life. My father has built so many temples but I feel that he is a miser. He has built all the temples with marble I wish I could convert all of them into golden temples. But now I will not be able to fulfill my wish that is why I was filled with unhappiness.. These tears that

you see are not tears fearing death, but they are tears of repent, for being unable to fulfill my dreams..! wanted the best for my Supreme Arihant...



MORAL

My dear children we might not be lucky enough to build marble or golden temples. But we must be grateful that we have a temple in town to worship our God..We must make it a habit to visit the temple and worship God everyday.. We must pray to him and ask him to guide us to the right path of life

HANUMAN AND THE SUNSET

Hanuman is referred to as Pavan Putra or son of the wind..

Hanuman possessed the divine power of being able to visit different places as and when he desired...

His favourite hobby and daily routine was to visit the various temples of Lord Rama.

Once while returning back from a stoll, he was highly impressed and moved by the superb sight of mother nature..

He rejoiced basking in the red light of the setting sun..

He enjoyed seeing the sun slowly sink down the earth..

Even after the sun had set, there was a dim light emitting in the sky..

It slowly diminished and left a darkness around..

The power of the bright Sun ended..

The whole scenario changed in a matter of minutes..

The rule of the queen of night started.. she was now the sole ruler up till the onset of dawn..

The scene sent a wave of thoughts in the mind of Hanuman.

He was unable to forget the scene.

He realised that like the rising sun, we also rise, take birth, live this life and like the setting sun we return back from this earth..

This is the law of nature...

Hanuman also realised the futility and short span of the life and finally renounced the world. And spent the rest of his life for spiritual realisation....



MORAL

Children! We have experienced this scenario so many times in life. But have we ever thought about the reality behind this scene or the close association of the same behind our life.? Well now that we have realised, we should make the most of the human incarnation that we have received and before leaving the world we should make our soul immortal and free from this journey of births and deaths..

THE STORY OF SIX FRIENDS

The concept of Leshya is inherent in Jain scriptures...

Leshya is nothing but the colour indication of the mental state or temperament of any person...

This story goes a long way to explain the concept of Leshya...

Once, there were six friends...

They approached a jambu tree and wanted to enjoy the jambu fruits...

One of them felt, "Oh friends! Cut down the tree from its very roots so that we can enjoy eating the fruits leisurely..."

This mental state is referred to as the 'Krushna Leshya', and is represented by black colour...

The second one intervened - "No brothers! Why should we cut down the whole tree? Let us cut only the branch having lot of fruits..."

This mental state is called the 'Nila Leshya', and is represented by the blue colour...

Now it was the turn of the third one - "But why should we cut down even the main branch? The jambu fruits are in very small branches. So let's cut down the smaller branches." This type of mental predicament is referred to as the 'Kapot Leshya', and is indicated by the colour grey...

The fourth one was very different in his thinking - "I think, you all are going on a wrong track. There is absolutely no necessity to break any branches, small or big. Let us pluck only the twigs which have bunches of fruits." This type of mental state is called the 'Pitta Leshya' or 'Tejo Leshya', and is represented by the colour yellow...

It was now the turn of the fifth friend- "You are partially right, but your suggestion is also not appropriate. Let us pluck the fruits alone." This state of the mind is called the 'Padma Leshya', and it is represented by Lotus colour...

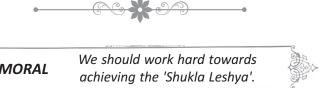
The last one finally added - "Brothers! Why do we have to pluck any fruits in the first place? There are so many ripe fruits fallen on the ground. Let us pick them up and eat." This matured mental state is called the 'Shukla Leshya', and represented by the white colour...

The intention of everyone was one and the same...

All of them wanted to enjoy eating the jambu fruits...

But the methods each one suggested for achieving their objective differed widely...

The methods suggested by them are the expressions of their internal mental states, or Leshya.



SCRIPTURE OF DEVOTION

One day after performing the worship of the Parmatma, Pethad Shah went to the Upashray to salute the Gurudev. At that time many sadhus were carrying out scriptural studies in the upashray. Pethad Shah heard the sweet voice of the sadhus who were carrying out scriptural studies and who were reading out the shlokas loudly and clearly.

He was greatly delighted by their voice. After saluting the Gurudev in prescribed manner, he sat in a proper place, Sitting nearby, a muni was teaching another muni a Jin Agam. The word Gautam repeatedly occurred in the Agam. Pethad Shah heard it with concentration for about half an hour. He liked the sutra very much. He asked the Acharya- "Gurudev! which sutra is this? The word Gautam occurs again and again in it."

The Gurudev said-"Noble man! This is the fifth Agam sutra called the Bhagwati Sutra. This is the greatest Agam Sutra, Shri Ganadhar Gautam swami put thirty six thousand questions to Lord Mahavir and every time addressing Gautam swami by mentioning his name Lord Mahavir answered all those questions. Therefore, in this Agam sutra name of Gautam occurs thirty six thousand times. The original title of this sutra is Vyakhyapragnapti.

Pethad Shah asked another question- "Gurudev! This muniraj is teaching the sutra. The other muni is hearing it. Why does he not explain the meaning of the sutra?"

The Gurudev said -"The muni who is hearing the

sutra does not posses the capacity to understand the inner meaning of the Bhagwati sutra. He is carrying out the exercise called "yogadwahan" to acquire the ability to read and understand the sutra. Therefore only the mulasutra is being read out to him. The sadhus who read sutra and teach it to others, who listen to it, who write it out; and who get it written by others along with the performance of their spiritual austerities attain omniscience. If anyone adores the sutra with heartfelt devotion, his karmas will be destroyed.

When Pethad Shah thus heard about the efficacy of hearing, studying, and their teaching the Jinagams in his heart there arose a great regard and love for them. He said to the Gurudev- "Gurudev! May I also hear the Bhagavatisutra?"

"Why not? Shravaks and Shravikas have the authority to hear the Jinagams"

"Gurudev! I too wish to hear only the original sutras. It will take many days to understand the meaning of the sutras. I don't have time now. I am engaged in the political and administrative matters of the kingdom. At any rate, I have had the opportunity of hearing the sacred words of the Gandhar Bhagwan".

"Dear Shravak! I will tell this muniraj to read out to you the Bhagvati sutra from the beginning to the end. You come here everyday for sometime. You begin tomorrow."

Pethad Shah's heart was deeply moved by the grace of the Gurudev. He returned home. He made a decision that while listening to the sutra, whenever I hear

the word Gautam I will offer one gold coin to show my devotion to the scripture.

The next day Pethad Shah wore clean clothes and came to the upashray with gold coins. He first saluted the Gurudev and then saluted the Muni who was to read out the sutra to him. Pethad Shah sat still with firm concentration and began hearing the sutra. Whenever he heard the word Gautam he made an offering of one gold coin to show his devotion. Pethad Shah made an offering of thirty six thousand gold coins to show his devotion to the scripture. Using that money, he established seven large Gyan-bhandar (libraries) in cities like Bharuch. Ofcourse he always received inspiration and encouragement from Acharya Dharmaghoshasooriji.

Do you entertain the desire of listening to the Jin Agams? You will certainly hear them if you make the acquaintance of enlightened men.



MORAL

The meeting with enlightened men kindles in the hearts of devotees the light of knowledge and makes it burn brightly.



POWER OF MIND

Bhagwan Mahavir was putting up in the Gunshil temple. King Shrenik came to offer his salutation with a royal retinue. On the way Shrenik saw Muni Prasannachandra Rajarshi. He was meditating under a tree. Shrenik wondered at the deep penance and meditation of Prasannachandra Rajarshi.

After bowing down to Bhagwan Mahavir, King Shrenik asked -"Bhagwan! I saw Prasannachandra in deep meditation on the way. I have hardly seen such deep meditation. Bhagwan! where would he have gone if he had died at the time, I saw him meditating?"

Bhagwan Mahavir said -" To the seventh hell."

All who listened were shocked. Then Shrenik asked-"Suppose he dies at this moment?"

"Well, he will go to the sixth hell" replied Bhagwan Mahavir.

King Shrenik went on asking the same question "this time?"..."this time ?...

Bhagwan Mahavir said "The fifth..."The first"...

After some time again King Shrenik asked the same question. Bhagwan Mahavir said -"first heaven" Then as the questions were asked, Bhagwan Mahavir went on saying -"The second... the third ...the fourth ...and finally the highest paradise."

At that very moment there wafted in a fragant breeze. Drums were heard began beating in the sky. The whole world along with king Shrenik began to experience a sense of rare bliss and celestial joy.

Bhagwan Mahavir said-"Prasannachandra has cut down all the bonds of karma. He is emancipated."

The king Shrenik thought -"How wonderful! seventh hell is followed by eternal bliss! All clouds have vanished, indeed!"

Shrenik said "Bhagwant, this is indeed a mystery." Bhagwan Mahavir said "Shrenik listen to the mental thinking of the Prasannachandra during meditation. He was in the agitated state when you saw him for the first time. He had heard of the trouble coming to his son from the king of Magadh. He thought that his kingdom of Potanpur was besieged by the enemy and it was difficult to save the kingdom from falling into the enemy's hands. So Prasannachandra took up arms on behalf of his son. But then, he was only in meditation under the tree. This all was only his thinking about the war.

Further just thinking about war he found that his sword broke down while fighting... there was no another weapon.

So he tried to touch his crown to throw it at the enemy. But as soon as he touched his head he found that there was no crown. He then realized that there was no enemy before him because, he was engrossed in meditation. Everything else was illusion. He was only meditating monk. He understood his mistake. His realization helped him to go to the highest heaven in the end. He succeeded in cutting off all the bonds that had obstructed eternal light.

King Shrenik realized the power of mind. Human mind can take him to hell, also to heaven and also can liberate from all karmic bondages.



